



Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer's
Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act
(HR 5025)

PRESS PACKET

For additional information, please contact:

Congressman Greg Walden
(202.225.6730)
www.walden.house.gov

Congressman Earl Blumenauer
(202.225.4811)
www.blumenauer.house.gov

Statement by Chairman Greg Walden
H.R. 5025
The Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act
Before the House Resources Committee
July 19, 2006

Good morning. Thank you Mr. Chairman for your support of this legislation and your assistance in our work to move it forward at this time. I also want to express my appreciation to my Oregon colleagues, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and Darlene Hooley for their work on the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (HR 5025).

Together we've crafted a bipartisan, locally written and widely supported plan to protect the special places on Mt. Hood for future generations to enjoy, while working to improve access, recreation, forest health and watersheds. We've worked with The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to fulfill our Treaty Trust obligations and we've worked with local interests to resolve a nearly 30-year battle over development in the upper Hood River Valley. This measure comes to this committee today in shape to become law by the end of this year.

I want to thank Earl for his leadership in starting this process nearly three years ago by suggesting we work together to consider the issues and pressures facing Oregon's icon, Mt. Hood. Perhaps because our history together goes back to the 1970s, we were able to rekindle a bit of the Oregon dream by working together to develop a shared vision for Mt. Hood using a very public and collaborative process.

I especially appreciate the detailed analysis that the Forest Service has put into carefully reviewing the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act. Likewise, I appreciate the technical comments from groups like the American Forest Resource Council, Campaign for Americas Wilderness, and American Rivers, the State of Oregon and the five county governments whose counties are directly impacted by what takes place on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Colleagues, HR 5025 is a balanced plan that not only protects extraordinary spaces for future generations, but also will lead to improved forest health conditions across a broad region of a forest that is in trouble. Our measure seeks to protect water quality and quantity, while enhancing recreational opportunities for an ever-growing population. We address transportation needs and encourage continued public collaboration.

The current version of the bill we will discuss here today is draft number nine and was crafted from a concept paper presented to the public in two forums in December 2005, one in Hood River, Oregon and Portland, Oregon. The concept paper was drafted following two public summits, drawing over 250 participants each, regarding challenges facing the Mount Hood National Forest conducted in August 2003 and 2004, a two-day roundtable discussion in July 2005 with 50 key stakeholders, and a 41-mile backpacking trip in August 2005.

If approved by this Committee, this legislation would provide the largest addition of forest wilderness to America's inventory in the last three years, the first additional wilderness classification on Mt. Hood in the last 22 years – a 40% increase over existing designations. It resolves a 30-year-old land management dispute in the Hood River Valley and designates 26 miles of wild and scenic rivers. It also calls for improved forest health conditions across a landscape that is in trouble.

Let me be very clear about our intent for this legislation:

- To increase the amount of Wilderness, adhering strictly to the 1964 Wilderness Act, increase the amount of Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Mt Hood National Forest, while in total agreement that these designations not reduce the amount of land that is specifically identified for timber harvest nor would

they deliberately result in future land management conflicts – if a recreational activity, such as snowmobiling, takes place within view or earshot of wilderness, then that activity will still be able to continue.

- Any landowners with private holdings incorporated by the designations would be granted full access to their lands.
- Require the Forest Service to develop and implement through existing authorities, a 10-year assessment to address bug infested, disease ridden and heavily overstocked trees and to take action using site-specific, environmentally reviewed, and publicly noticed projects to improve these areas to the optimum condition class.
- Where Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or legislative authorities do not currently exist between irrigation districts or municipalities and the Forest Service, the Forest Service would be directed to enter into MOU's that outline stewardship goals to manage watersheds for water quality and water quantity.
- Existing development footprints are the best places to enhance recreational opportunities and maximize future potential – these areas, could potentially include the footprints of Government Camp, Ski Bowl, Timberline, Mt. Hood Meadows, and lands allocated A-11 under the approved forest plan – also if there roads slated to be closed, let see if we cant transition those roads for other recreational uses.
- Establish a Recreational Working Group, comprised of local stakeholders to advise the Forest Service on planning for future recreation enhancements.
- Develop an integrated transportation network that brings people to and from Mt. Hood National Forest and safely transports people from place to place on the mountain.
- Require the Forest Service to enter into MOU's with Native American Tribes to provide for huckleberry picking and other customary and traditional harvesting of First Foods to ensure healthy stands of huckleberries and other traditional plant species.
- Encourage cooperation with Mt. Hood's local communities, counties, the State, the Tribes, and federal agencies to identify common ground, coordinate planning efforts around the Mountain, and make the federal government a better partner in building cooperative and lasting solutions.

Last summer, Earl and I made history as the only bipartisan, backpacking duo in the Congress to make the journey around Mt. Hood together. Over the course of four days and three nights we hiked 41 miles, climbed and descended 9,000 feet and along the way saw firsthand Mt. Hood from every perspective, including the one my ancestors saw 161 years ago when they completed their wagon train journey to the promised land of Oregon.

It is in this spirit of promise for a better future nurtured by an on-the-ground appreciation that we bring you this legislation and ask for your support.

With that Mr. Chairman, I as unanimous consent to enter into the record a statement on HR 5025 from Congressman Blumenauer.

I would also ask for unanimous consent to introduce as an amendment in the nature of a substitute for HR 5025 and ask that it be considered as read.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Statement for the Record on H.R. 5025
Resources Committee Mark-up
July 19, 2006

I would like to thank Full Chairman Pombo, Ranking Member Rahall and Subcommittee Ranking Member Udall for today's markup of HR 5025, the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act. I appreciate the opportunity to join the Resources Committee for this important discussion.

The Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act represents a tremendous amount of hard work by hundreds of Oregonians who found common ground on the crucial issues concerning our state's greatest icon, Mt. Hood. I especially want to thank my colleague and Subcommittee Chair Greg Walden for working with me for more than three years to develop this legislation. Together we enlisted extensive involvement of citizen groups, environmental organizations, recreation advocates, public agencies, tribal representatives and local governments to create a bill that establishes a long term, sustainable vision for the mountain and addresses immediate challenges of wilderness protection, recreation, transportation, forest health and water quality, development, and Native American rights.

We began our drafting process with a document that contained core principles and concepts. These ideas were developed through two major public summits, a 41-mile hike around the mountain, and long sessions with experts and stakeholders, and were the subject of public review and comment at two town hall meetings last fall – one in Portland and one in Hood River. Through numerous meetings with interested parties and thousands of public comments, we further refined the principles and translated them into legislation, which we introduced this spring. Following the Forest Subcommittee hearing on April 5, we again worked closely with stakeholders, the Forest Service, and our colleagues from both parties to refine the language and clarify our intent. While this bill is not the final word on Mt. Hood, we've made every effort to preserve the integrity of our legislative concepts and principles. We believe we have transformed them into sound public policy and that this process of public participation can serve as a model for other communities to protect their natural treasures.

I appreciate the hard work of Committee staff to help us make improvements to the legislation, especially in the Recreation section, Title III. The Committee also helped us improve the Forest and Watershed Stewardship section, Title V. Our intent with this section is to spotlight troubled forested areas and communities threatened by wildfire,

assess the needs over a ten year period, and implement projects addressing those immediate challenges. This assessment will not amend or supplement the current Mt. Hood Forest Plan or the Northwest Forest Plan, and any activities implemented as a result will use existing Forest Service authorities. It is also our intent that this section does not waive any environmental laws.

An important section of this legislation is the Land Conveyances Title, in particular the Cooper Spur-Government Camp land exchange. This exchange settles a 30-year dispute on the mountain and is widely supported by conservation groups, citizens, the ski industry, and county government. Its implementation keeps development on the South side of Mt. Hood where infrastructure already exists, while protecting the pristine North side in perpetuity.

Again I appreciate the Committee's attention to this important legislation and I look forward to a productive markup and quick movement to the House Floor.



July 19, 2006

Dear Congressman Blumenauer,

This year, the United States Congress has a rare chance to protect treasured wild lands, wildlife, and scenic rivers on Mount Hood and in the Columbia Gorge. The Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (HR 5025), which you introduced along with Representatives Walden, Hooley and DeFazio, presents a golden opportunity to designate the first new wilderness on Mount Hood in 21 years, along with 23 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Campaign for America's Wilderness strongly supports your efforts and this bill. The Campaign for America's Wilderness is a national wilderness advocacy organization that works with local and state partner organizations across the country to help conserve Americans' wilderness birthright.

Wilderness areas like those around Mount Hood protect our forests from clear cuts and reckless development, safeguard clean drinking water, preserve habitat for wildlife, and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy natural areas just as we do today.

The Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act will preserve special wild places like the rugged backcountry of Oregon's Roaring River, 1000-year-old cedar trees in Big Bottom, and old-growth and drinking watersheds of Eagle Creek. This is also important habitat for elk, deer, salmon, birds, and other wildlife that call Mount Hood home.

The scenic beauty of Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge draws tens of thousands of visitors to Oregon each year and, as is the case with wilderness areas across the country, brings millions of dollars into the economy. Wild lands are what make Oregon such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I congratulate you on your commitment and your foresight on behalf of Oregonians and all Americans who enjoy our treasured wild lands, and I thank you for your support for wilderness.

Sincerely,

Mike Matz
Executive Director

HOOD RIVER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION



DAVID MERIWETHER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

601 State Street • Hood River, OR 97031 • (541) 386-3970 • FAX (541) 386-9392

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chuck Thomsen - Chair
Carol York - District 1
Maui Meyer - District 2
Bob Benton - District 3
Les Perkins - District 4

July 17, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Mt Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006 HR 5025

Dear Congressmen:

This letter is written to express our strong and unanimous support for the Mt. Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006, HR 5025. This critical and far-sighted legislation is the result of several years of steadfast efforts on your part which have included broad public outreach and scoping, numerous forums and hearings, and extensive consultation with stakeholders representing a wide range of priorities and interests. You are to be commended for your dedication to crafting this comprehensive bi-partisan proposal.

As local government elected officials in the affected area encompassed by this legislation, we acknowledge your commitment to address the concerns and issues of so many divergent viewpoints, and believe that this proposal represents a powerful, consensus building compromise that will effectively guide use and resource management policy decisions on Mt. Hood for years to come. HR5025 includes provisions dealing with a broad array of issues, including forest health, fire safety and stewardship, recreational uses, transportation systems, intergovernmental and tribal relationships and watershed protection.

Of particular importance to Hood River County are two land conveyances included in HR5025. The Cooper Spur / Government Camp Exchange effectively resolves a decades-old dispute regarding the future of the north side of Mt. Hood. Specifically, for the past two years, Hood River County has been engaged in mediated settlement efforts with other parties to resolve differences. Painstaking efforts among the parties, including members of the conservation community as well as the property owners, have resulted in the development of a property appraisal that fairly and comprehensively establishes appropriate values that will permit this exchange to occur to the benefit of all parties.

A Small County with a big mission:
Providing Quality of Life for all.

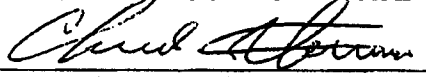
Further, Hood River County agrees to serve as the recipient of the improvements at Cooper Spur, should the Forest Service be unable to find a suitable concessionaire in due course. Title VIII, Subtitle B identifies an exchange in Cascade Locks that will secure property for the Forest Service along the Pacific Coast Trail, while providing property to the Port of Cascade Locks, within the Urban Growth Area, that will permit appropriate development to occur.

Additionally, we wish to voice our support for other specific provisions of HR5025; including protecting the rights of the Middle Fork Irrigation District, creation of the Mt. Hood National Forest Recreational Working Group, the dedication of funds for recreational purposes, the authorization for a Sustainable Biomass Utilization Study, and the establishment of the Crystal Springs Watershed Special Resources Management Unit.

The Mt. Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006 is a remarkable piece of legislation that accomplishes many worthwhile goals, and was developed in a manner that serves as a model for bi-partisan inclusiveness. Thank you very much for your efforts in this regard, and for the opportunity to voice our unanimous support.

Sincerely,

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chuck Thomsen, Chair


Carol York, Commissioner


Maui Meyer, Commissioner


Bob Benton, Commissioner


Les Perkins, Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Richard Pombo, Resource Committee Chairman
The Honorable Nick Rahall, Resources Committee Ranking Minority Member



WASCO COUNTY

Wasco County Court
Room 302
511 Washington Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058-2237
(541) 506-2520
Fax: (541) 506-2521

Dan Ericksen, *County Judge*
Scott McKay, *County Commissioner*
Sherry Holliday, *County Commissioner*

July 16, 2006

The Honorable Greg Walden
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden,

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to review the updated Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act of 2006 (H.R. 5025) and providing maps. I am very pleased this is moving forward and I certainly appreciate the bipartisan fashion and time you and Congressman Blumenauer have dedicated to this important issue.

As you are well aware I have kept you informed of what I felt were important issues for Wasco County throughout this process. The most important issue for us has been and continues to be our ability to manage our watersheds. We have several in the Mt. Hood National Forest including the City of The Dalles (2), City of Dufur and the unincorporated communities of Pine Hollow and Sportsman's Park. I believe you have made the correct decision in leaving those areas out of the proposed wilderness. This will allow those communities to continue their successful partnerships with the US Forest Service to manage those watersheds. In order to do good forest management we must use adaptive management to protect water quality. Fire risk is an area that is a huge concern and we must have the ability to do active management to improve forest health, control wildfire, protect water quality, operate and maintain existing water system infrastructure and development of future water supplies.

I believe you and Congressman Blumenauer have addressed other concerns for Wasco County, which includes the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act (County Payments Bill). We are very concerned those dollars may be reduced or disappear altogether and we must be able to have some level of harvest in order to sustain our County Road Department. As you well know the harvest levels promised in the 1994 Forest Plan have never been achieved and many scientists have now come to believe the bug kill that we are seeing devastate our east side forests will continue until we can begin to do long range forest health treatments.

I am pleased to see the bill would direct agencies (US Forest Service & State of Oregon) to work together to develop a long-range transportation plan. Getting to the Mt. Hood National Forest from the west side of Oregon via Highway 26 can be quite an expedition in itself. Perhaps some creative thinking will develop to look at alternative ways to reach the drier part of the Forest.

Recreation on Federal Lands is ever increasing. I am happy to see your bill would allow for a Recreational Advisory Council of local stakeholders. I have always believed that people who live and work in a particular area should be the ones who are solicited to help make decisions that directly affect them.

I am aware there was a lot of input as you and Congressman Blumenauer made your trek around Mt. Hood. There were many stakeholders who had an opportunity to share their views with you both. Therefore I am confident you have made the very best decisions while trying to address the myriad of concerns you heard.

Again Congressman Walden, thank you very much for your leadership on this important, far-reaching and everlasting piece of legislation. I believe you have solicited input for several years and made educated decisions based on what you have observed and heard. I feel fortunate to have been a small part of your advisory group and I am hopeful your legislation comes to fruition in a timely manner.

If I can be of any assistance at all please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Holliday". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sherry Holliday,
Wasco County Commissioner



Bill Kennemer
Chair

Larry Sowa
Commissioner

Martha Schrader
Commissioner

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

July 18, 2006

The Honorable Greg Walden
1210 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
FAX – (202) 225-5774

6/16/06
Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of Clackamas County, I write today in support of your many efforts to come up with legislation to more effectively manage and preserve Mount Hood.

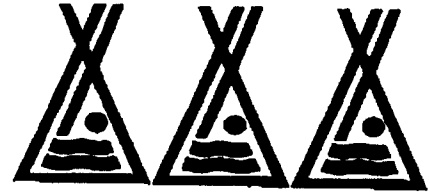
Clackamas County has been an active participant in the numerous public summits and stakeholder meetings that you convened during the past three years. I applaud your collaborative efforts to develop H.R. 5025, the Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act. We are pleased to see the Clackamas County, Hunchback Mountain land exchange included in the legislation. This exchange has the support of local community organizations including the Mt. Hood Area Chamber of Commerce and the Mt. Hood Corridor Community Planning Organization.

We are particularly pleased with the open process you have engaged in and urge you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass your legislation out of the Resources Committee and the full House. As this legislation advances we look forward to the opportunity to work with you as this legislation is fine-tuned further and eventually conferenced with the Senate.

Sincerely,

Bill Kennemer, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

cc: Congressman Blumenauer



Warm Springs, Oregon 97761 / 541 553-1161

July 18, 2006

VIA FAX

The Honorable Greg Walden (FAX: 202-225-5774)
1210 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer (FAX: 202-225-8941)
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Walden and Blumenauer:

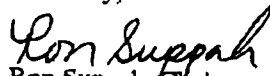
On the eve of the House Resources Committee mark-up of H.R. 5025, the Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act, I write to express the continuing strong support of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for this important legislation.

Gentlemen, the Warm Springs Tribe appreciates the vision and spirit of cooperation you brought to the development of this legislation. Mount Hood, the Mount Hood National Forest, and its Wilderness are magnificent resources long cherished by the people of the Northwest, including ourselves and other nearby tribes. Your recognition that Mount Hood must meet an increasing array of uses, from the ancient to the most modern, and this legislation to help accommodate and guide those demands, is necessary, thoughtful and forward thinking.

Warm Springs is particularly pleased with the First Foods Gathering Areas and Savings Provisions Regarding Relations with Indian Tribes in Sections 702 and 704, as well as forest access for traditional and cultural purposes, participation on the Recreational Working Group, and the study of sustainable biomass utilization. Your consultation with our Tribe in drafting these sections, and your resolve to retain them, are very gratifying to us.

The Warm Springs people have enjoyed Mount Hood's beauty and bounty since time immemorial, and we believe this legislation will help assure our future generations to continue to do likewise. We hope that the Committee will adopt the revisions recently crafted by yourselves and then approve the bill.

Sincerely,



Ron Suppah, Chairman
Warm Springs Tribal Council



Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland

July 13, 2006

Congressman Greg Walden
1210 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

I am pleased to write in support of HR 5025, the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act. This legislation provides a well balanced plan that sets the stage for the mountain's long term needs, including an expanding urban population, increasing numbers of recreational users, an imperative to protect water quality for Portland and other communities, maintaining a healthy forest and reducing the risks of wildfire, and preserving the treaty rights of Native Americans who look to the mountain for sustenance. I appreciate that the City of Portland has been an active participant in the numerous public summits and stakeholder meetings that you convened in the last three years as you developed the legislation.

The Mt. Hood National Forest is recognized throughout the world for its natural beauty, and the bounty of recreational and resource opportunities it affords. The mountain itself attracts 4 million visitors each year, and that number is increasing. HR 5025 is a critical step that will help us to plan for the next century of growth in or near Mt. Hood, while permanently protecting some of the forest's most special and wild places. I support this legislation and urge its passage through the House of Representatives and into law.

Sincerely,

Tom Potter
Mayor



Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer's Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (HR 5025)

WILDERNESS / WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

- This legislation strikes a balance by protecting ecological resources and biological diversity as well as a number of special places for future generations.
- This bill adds approximately 77,215 acres of Wilderness to the Mt. Hood National Forest. This is a 41% increase, the second largest increase in wilderness on the Forest, and the first new wilderness in the forest in 22 years, bring the total amount of wilderness on the Mt. Hood to 263,414 acres (25% of total Forest acreage). Wilderness is designated in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act is not compromised in any way.
- The following areas are designated as wilderness (acres approximate):
 - Big Bottom Wilderness 1,330 acres
 - Bull of the Woods Wilderness Additions 4,717 acres
 - Cooper Spur Wilderness 2,038 acres
 - Gorge Ridgeline Wilderness 22,577 acres
 - Mount Hood Wilderness Additions 4,672 acres
 - Elk Cove/Mazama/Sandy
 - Roaring River Wilderness 37,749 acres
 - Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness Additions 4,133 acres
 - Alder Creek/Eagle Creek
- The Mt. Hood region also contains a number of important rivers that provide recreational opportunities and important habitat for Bull trout, steelhead, salmon and other fish. This bill adds approximately 26 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. This is a 20% increase to Mt. Hood's Wild and Scenic Rivers network. These designations will protect the remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, and cultural values of these rivers.
- The following areas are designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers (mileage approximate):
 - South Fork of the Clackamas River 4.1 miles
 - Portions of Eagle Creek 8.5 miles
 - Middle Fork of the Hood River 3.7 miles
 - South Fork of the Roaring River 4.6 miles
 - Upper Reach of the ZigZag River 4.3 miles
- Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers designations do not include lands designated for timber production, do not intentionally incorporate private inholdings, nor deliberately conflict with infrastructure or high use recreation areas.

For additional information, please contact:

Congressman Greg Walden's office
(202.225.6730)
www.walden.house.gov

Congressman Earl Blumenauer's office
(202.225.4811)
www.blumenauer.house.gov



Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer's Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (HR 5025)

Three Year Effort, Bipartisan, Locally Supported, Consensus Based, Stewardship Legacy Plan

- **August 2003** Mt. Hood Summit I – A View From the Summit – Timberline Lodge
- **June 2004** Mt. Hood Summit II – A Vision for the Future – Timberline Lodge
- **July 2005** Mt. Hood Stakeholder Roundtable – Timberline Lodge
- **August 2005** The Backpack Trip – Timberline Trail
- **December 2005** Mt. Hood Summit III – A Legacy for Mt. Hood – Hood River and Portland
- **March 28, 2006** The Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act (HR 5025) Introduced
- **April 5, 2006** Resources Forest Subcommittee Hearing
- **July 19, 2006** Resources Committee mark up

SUMMITS:

August 2003 - Mt. Hood Summit I: A View From the Summit - Timberline Lodge

- 300 people participated in a community wide discussion covering a range of issues including transportation, recreation, environmental protection, Tribal trust obligations, tourism, forestry and community development.

June 2004 - Mt. Hood Summit II: A Vision for the Future – Timberline Lodge

- 250 interested public attendees
- 20 presenters
- One hour of public testimony
- Over 80 written statements received from public and interest groups

December 2005 – Mt. Hood Summit III: A Legacy for Mt. Hood – Hood River Portland

- After all the previous opportunities for public input, a legislative concept paper was unveiled in Hood River and Portland to over 750 interested persons.
- After a 30-minute presentation by Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer, people were invited to comment for over 3.5 hours.
- From this legislative concept paper, a bill was crafted.

ROUNDTABLES:

July 2005 – Mt. Hood Roundtable Discussion Meetings – Timberline Lodge

- 2 days
- 5 roundtable discussions areas
 - Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers; Recreation; Development/Transportation Forest Health/Watersheds; Government to Government
- 10 hours of solid conversation
- 50 invited roundtable participants
- Over thirty pages of hand written notes – GW
- 20 maps were used or presented during discussions

THE BACKPACK TRIP

- August 15 – 18
- Circumnavigating Mt. Hood via the Timberline Trail
- Party will consist of 7 people
 - Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Mylene and Anthony Walden, Hillary Barbour, Janine Benner, Colby Marshall
- 4 days, 3 nights
- 41 miles
- Average 45-55 pounds of gear
- Elevation ranges from 3240 feet to 7300 feet...gained and lost a total of 9000 feet
- Crossing almost 40 creeks and streams
- Meeting with over 15 "field experts" as you circumnavigate the Mountain
 - botanists, wilderness experts, hydrologists, geologists, tribal representatives, foresters

Mt Hood National Forest Key Factoids

Established:	1908 – Oregon National Forest (renamed Mt. Hood National Forest in 1919) ("Wy'East" is the American Indian name for Mt. Hood)
Total Acreage:	1.1 million (including private and other jurisdictions)
Mt. Hood peak:	11,240 feet - the highest mountain in Oregon
Visitors per year:	4 million
Population in urban areas:	2 million
Employees:	257 permanent employees; 41 temporary
Volunteer hours:	20,000
Partner Programs:	250
Annual Budget (FY03):	\$23.7 million – 32% decrease from 1994 - 76% appropriated by Congress
Annual Economic Value:	\$150 million

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers Key Factoids

Wilderness Designations:	6 - Salmon Huckleberry, Hatfield, Mt. Hood, Badger Creek, Bull of the Woods, and Jefferson Wilderness which is split between the Hood and Willamette NF but is not counted in the Hood inventory
Wilderness Acres:	186,200 (17% of total Forest acreage) (Wilderness areas vary in size from 24,000 acres to 47,100 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With our proposal (77,215 additional acres): 263,414 (25% of total acreage)
Wilderness Average Use:	6.7 hours – 85% of activities are day use
Total Wilderness Visits:	137,000 (actual people)
Age of users:	20-39 (28%), 40-49 (19%), 50-59 (16%), under 16 (12%)
Wild and Scenic Rivers (miles):	121

Recreation Key Factoids

National Forest visits:	4 million
Ski Areas:	1,176,000 visitors per year
Wilderness visits:	137,000 visitors per year

Special Use Permits:	670	
Recreational trails (miles):	812	
Recreational residence:	555	
Established camp sites:	100 – (Forest working to obtain carrying capacity)	
Gender distribution:	63.5% male to 35.5% female	
Main activities as a % of use:	Down Hill Skiing	24% - 1,176,000 visitors per year
	Hiking/Walking	17% - 833,000
	Relaxing	14% - 686,000
	Non-motorized	9.8% - 480,200
	Viewing natural features	8.5% - 416,500
	Resort use	4.4% - 215,600
	Developed camping	3.1% - 151,900
	Other	19.2% - 940,800

Development/Transportation Key Factoids

Structures:	331
Total Roads (miles):	3,442
• Passenger car:	643
• High clearance:	1,150
• Closed:	1,649
Annual Road Maintenance Budget	\$800,000 (\$3.8 million in 1989)
Utility corridors (miles):	60
National Historic Landmark:	Timberline Lodge
National Historic Trail:	Barlow Road
Historic Structures/Districts:	10

Forest Health/Watersheds Key Factoids

Timber Harvested:	25.4 million board feet (97% decline from 1980's)
• Acres harvested in 2004	989 (less than 1/100 th of total Forest acreage)
Forest Vegetative Structure:	60% of the current stands are considered <i>dense, medium sized forest</i> .
Condition Class:	130,000 acres are in Condition Classes 2 & 3
Insect-caused Tree Mortality:	87,000 acres with significant amounts of mortality from recent bark beetle outbreaks.
Lands specified for timber production:	99,000 (9.6% of total Forest acreage)
Late Successional Reserve:	360,000 (35.1% of total Forest acreage)
Roadless:	118,350 (11.5% of total Forest acreage)
Annual forest growth rate:	13 times yearly harvest rates
Water sources (acres):	71,400
Perennial streams (miles):	1,640
Municipal Watersheds:	6
Drinking water supplies:	1.1 million people
Irrigation districts:	8
Special Forest Product Permits:	7,716
Mineral permits:	532
Wildlife species:	268
Fish species:	30
Threatened and Endangered:	7
Sensitive Species:	43

Archeological sites:	1200
Noxious weeds (acres affected):	7,000

- The Forest Plan identifies an allowable timber sales quantity of timber at 189 million board feet (mmbf) per year. The Northwest Forest Plan amended the Forest Plan resulting in a probable sales quantity of 67 mmbf. (Mt. Hood 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Report)
- From 1988 to 2003, 32% of fire ignitions were due to lighting, and 33% were caused by escaped campfires. For the period 1999-2003 for all causes, the Forest averaged 62 fires per year 173 acres burned. (Mt. Hood 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Report)
- Based on annual aerial detection surveys, insects are causing defoliation on approximately 5,400 acres resulting in reduced growth rates and low resistance. Of other great significance is the increase in beetle-caused tree mortality – recent detection on 18,000 acres with 31,000 trees killed. This is the highest mortality of the last decade. (Mt. Hood 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Report)